

Inventor: BRIAN PERRY

PATENT

Application No.: 09/872,817; Art Unit 1743; Examiner: Quan, E.S.

AMENDMENT NO. 3, responding to Office Action mailed June 18, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete set of claims, replacing replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claims:

1 **Claim 1.** (Currently amended) A vacuum manifold for interchangeably
2 accommodating a multi-well plate and one or a plurality of individual chromatography
3 columns terminating in [[a]] male portions of one or a plurality of male-female-type air-
4 tight manually operable connectors whose male and female portions are interlocking, said
5 vacuum manifold comprising:
6 a plate perforated with a plurality of through-passages, each through-passage
7 having embedded therein a female portion of said male-female-type air-tight manually
8 operable connector;
9 a plurality of individually removable plugs, each said plug shaped to mate with
10 one of said female portions to form a substantially airtight closure of said through-
11 passage; and
12 a receptacle with an open top and a port for drawing a partial vacuum in said
13 receptacle, said receptacle containing an internal shoulder encircling said open top and
14 sized to receive said plate.

1 **Claim 2.** (Canceled)

1 **Claim 3.** (Previously amended) An adapter for a vacuum manifold, which manifold
2 is designed to produce vacuum-induced flow through all wells of a multi-well laboratory
3 plate, said adapter rendering said vacuum manifold usable for producing vacuum-induced
4 flow through one or a plurality of individual chromatography columns terminating in
5 male portions of one or a plurality of male-female-type air-tight manually operable
6 connectors whose male and female portions are interlocking, said adapter comprising:

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7 a plate whose lateral dimensions are substantially the same as those of said multi-
8 well laboratory plate, said plate having a plurality of through-passages, each through-
9 passage having embedded therein a female portion of said male-female-type air-tight
10 manually operable connector; and
11 a plurality of individually removable plugs, each said plug shaped to mate with
12 one of said female portions embedded in said plate to form a substantially airtight closure
13 of said through-passage.
